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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE**

RE APPLICATION OF:

Masahiro SAITOU, et al.

SERIAL NO.: 09/448,144

FILED: November 24, 1999

: GROUP ART UNIT: 1745

: EXAMINER: J. MERCADO

FOR: SEPARATOR OF PROTON EXCHANGE FUEL CELL AND ITS  
MANUFACTURING METHOD

*#1723*  
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**REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION**

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

In response to the Office Action dated November 8, 2002, please reconsider the application in view of the following amendment and remarks.

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-17 are active in this application. Claims 6-15 stand withdrawn from further consideration.

The rejection of Claims 1-5, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as anticipated by Fukui et al (WO99/19927) and of Claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Fukui et al (WO99/19927) is respectfully traversed.

Applicants note that the reference of Fukui et al has a PCT publication date of April 22, 1999. However, the present application was filed November 24, 1999, claiming priority of Japanese application, JP P10-334737, filed November 25, 1998. Accordingly, the